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Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Volume 53, Issue 5

October 2, 2017

ColumbiaChronicle.com

P-Fac files Unfair Labor Practice over online courses

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Underrepresented:
society's beauty perceptions
and people with disabilities

SURVEY SAYS: FACULTY DISPLEASED

» CONNOR CARYNSKI
CAMPUS EDITOR

RESULTS FROM A new full-time faculty survey reveal that a majority of faculty members are dissatisfied with Columbia's professional development funding, administrative leadership and current salaries.

The survey, administered April 14–25 and completed by 72 percent of all faculty members, was designed with help from former Faculty Liaison for the Board of Trustees Pan Papacosta, Senior Associate Provost Suzanne Blum Malley and members of both the Faculty Affairs Committee and Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.

Joan Giroux, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee and associate professor in the Art and Art History Department, said the survey, which was conducted for the first

time this year, is considered a pilot program that will be refined and administered again in the Spring 2018 Semester. Although the updated survey is expected to yield better data, the information received this year is still useful to faculty members, she added.

The survey—which consisted of 63 questions regarding salary, college resources, leadership, direction and more—was designed to provide information about the average experience of college faculty members, as reported Sept. 14 by The Chronicle.

Results from the survey are expected to be shared with members of the Office of the Provost and the Board of Trustees by current Faculty Representative for the Board Andrew Causey.

SEE SURVEY, PAGE 3

		NO INTENTION OF LEAVING		
		✓	—	✗
ACTIVELY LOOKING ELSEWHERE	✓	13	7	38
	—	13	23	14
	✗	85	6	9



HB40 action does not let Rauner off the hook

» ZOË EITEL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After playing both sides of the aisle for months, Gov. Bruce Rauner made up his mind and signed House Bill 40 into law Sept. 28, expanding taxpayer-subsidized abortions for women covered by Medicaid and state employee insurance.

The law also eliminates trigger language in Illinois law that would have made abortion illegal in the state should the U.S. Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade*. It goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018.

While this is an important step for Illinois law and grants low-income women the rights their more well-off counterparts already had, Rauner's continuous flip-flopping on the issue and record as governor cannot be ignored just because he did one good thing.

Well, actually, two good things. Rauner also signed the Trust Act, Senate Bill 31, into law Aug. 28, which protects undocumented immigrants from being detained by law enforcement based solely on their immigration status, as reported Sept. 11 by *The Chronicle*.

These recent decisions by Rauner have drawn criticism from his Republican friends and anxiety from state Democrats, as they should. Rauner has proved himself not to be a friend of the state, nor a voice for women or immigrants. He may have a few more liberal-leaning views, but Illinoisans—both Democrats and Republicans—need to take every one of his moves and decisions with a grain of salt.

Though state lawmakers passed HB40 May 10, it was not sent to Rauner until Sept. 25, giving him ample time for back-and-forth rhetoric and inconsistent remarks. Rauner told Cardinal Blase Cupich that he intended to vote against the bill but has also historically been for abortion rights. Ultimately disregarding what he told Cupich, Rauner said he had to stay true to his values and signed the bill, and Cupich came back saying Rauner “did break his word,” according to a Sept. 29 *Chicago Tribune* article.

This is not a governor who can be trusted. This is a man who wants to stay as popular as possible and tried to pull a fast one on both his supporters



and opponents, which are increasing following each screwup, of which there are also plenty.

After a two-year state budget impasse resulting from a stand-off between Rauner and Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, D-Chicago, that ended in July, Illinois is still in financial trouble. The new budget still wasn't up to Rauner's standards, and the governor vetoed it, which both sides of the aisle in the state House and Senate overrode with a three-fifths majority vote. Rauner was prepared to allow the state to descend into further financial chaos because a couple demands weren't met by the proposal.

Rauner should not be commended for doing the right thing a couple times. He's messed up way more. The effects from a lack of funding for state programs and institutions will last for some time and most likely into the next governor's term.

HB40 is a possibly life-saving law that will keep women who could not previously afford abortions from attempting risky procedures on themselves or visiting cheaper, unlicensed facilities for the operation—a practice that is still far too common, as discussed on Page 29. It is gratifying that this is now law in Illinois, but Rauner is not a hero by any means for signing it.

So go ahead and pat the governor on the back for his recent positive actions toward a couple of marginalized groups, but remember his many more faults and don't ignore the upcoming gubernatorial election. We need someone in the governor's mansion who will not be petty and stomp his feet when he doesn't get his way, putting his state's future at risk.

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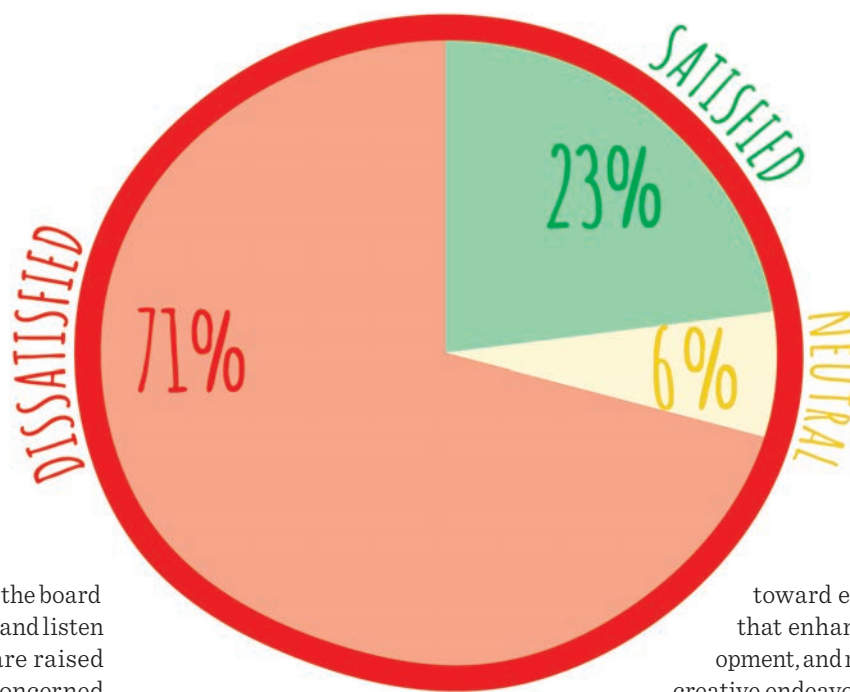
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SATISFACTION WITH AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



SURVEY, FROM FRONT

"I hope the administration and the board of trustees pay careful attention and listen to the kinds of concerns that are raised about issues that faculty are concerned about," Giroux said.

Results of the survey state 71 percent of faculty members, 225 of 309, are dissatisfied with funding for professional development, such as conventions and workshops, while 23 percent are satisfied and 6 percent are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. The survey also shows about 67 percent of faculty members are pleased with leadership at the chair level while about 35 percent are satisfied with leadership at the administrative level.

The survey also inquired into whether faculty members intend to leave the college in the near future and if they are currently looking for academic positions elsewhere. Eighty-five members stated they plan on staying with the college and are not looking for other positions and 38 stated they are actively looking for other positions and plan to leave the college soon. Thirteen faculty members indicated they were looking for other positions but had no intention of leaving, nine said they plan on leaving the college but are not looking at other positions, and remaining faculty declined to answer the questions.

Papacosta recommended in the 2016-2017 academic year that a faculty survey be created to identify trends of concern or satisfaction among faculty members and how they change overtime, according to Giroux.

Greg Foster-Rice, associate professor in the Photography Department and former

Faculty Senate president, said faculty surveys have been conducted at the college in the past, but they contained information that was difficult to compare year to year because the questions were either too broad or narrow. The new survey was designed to contain questions on topics that would remain relevant and could be asked every year, he added.

"I fully anticipate that it will be used in subsequent years," Foster-Rice said. "I anticipate that there is the potential for additional questions to it, but one of the aspects of it is that for it to have value longitudinally the questions have to stay more or less the same."

Foster-Rice said 72 percent is an extremely high response rate and is representative of faculty members' interest in having an outlet to voice their concerns.

Senior Vice President and Provost Stan Wearden said in a Sept. 29 emailed statement to The Chronicle via the News Office that his office will continue to work with faculty to improve the survey and explore ways to enhance faculty experiences at the college.

"The pilot survey provides valuable, preliminary input from full-time faculty members and reflects our yearlong conversations with the Faculty Senate," Wearden said in the statement. "I am pleased that, in many ways, we anticipated our faculty's needs ahead of the survey's findings, and have already taken significant steps

toward establishing programs that enhance professional development, and recognize scholarly and creative endeavors."

Giroux said the survey lacked a list of action items for the Board of Trustees and the provost to accomplish.

"[Providing action items] is actually a next step that we, as Faculty Senate, should try to do," Giroux said. "We should try to look at the results of the surveys that we're getting, the next time we do it and [ask] what would be recommendations of actionable items that we could express to the administration and to the Board of Trustees that we would like to see as a result of this."

Hilary Sarat-St. Peter, assistant professor in the English and Creative Writing Department and member of the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee, who contributed to drafting the survey, said faculty members were interested in creating a survey to identify faculty satisfaction and morale.

"Members of faculty were saying [they] want to know how everybody is doing [and that they] would like a survey," Sarat-St. Peter said. "The faculty themselves were interested in surveying faculty regarding a variety of issues and then the executive committee, in our conversations with each other and the provost's office, realized that the survey was a good opportunity to determine how faculty are doing in respect to the Strategic Plan so the institution is making these changes."

SATISFACTION WITH LEADERS



CHAIR



DEAN



ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

White Supremacy 101: oppression in classrooms

» MOLLY WALSH
CAMPUS REPORTER

WHITE SUPREMACY IS still prevalent in American classrooms, said David Stovall, an education policy studies and African-American studies professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Acknowledging this concern, Columbia College Chicago Assembly will be hosting “Charlottesville is Everyday: Understanding the Overt and Subtle Legacies of White Supremacy in the Classroom.” The discussion will take place Oct. 2 at Stage Two, 618 S. Michigan Ave., featuring Stovall and Matthew Shenoda, dean of Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

“It’s everything from the curriculum, the design of school space and discipline policies; it’s in our pedagogical practice,” Stovall said.

According to a report from the Southern Poverty Law Center, 109 public schools are named after Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and other prominent Confederates, 27 of these schools being in predominantly black areas. Although a majority of these schools are in former Confederate states, there are signs of white supremacy in schools around the country.

Stovall and Shenoda debated topics for the discussion, but after the rallies and protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, they concluded that white supremacy needed to be the focus.

Stovall said white supremacy should be discussed in classes to understand it as structural ideology, not as individual terror or bigoted events. He cited Christopher Columbus lessons as an example of white supremacy in curriculum.

“This is always a problem in terms of looking at how we understand and shape our historical events,” Stovall said, noting the lack of critical perspective on the story of Columbus and his search for gold that ended in shooting and killing indigenous people.

Oscar Valdez—Columbia alumnus and academic scheduling coordinator in the Humanities, History and Social Science Department—helped organize the panel and said he felt marginalized as a freshman at Columbia when his professor argued that his Latino-themed project would not be successful because everyone does not speak Spanish like him.

Valdez said equitable education—giving students what they need instead of treating everyone the same—is important because it allows different voices to be heard.

ProPublica’s Documenting Hate project has collected accounts of hate speech at more than 120 college campuses nationally since November 2016.

Eritrea Haile, music major and president of the Pan African Student Organization, said she went to a predominantly black school from kindergarten to sixth grade before transferring to a predominantly white Jewish school, where she was the only black student in her class.

Haile said she would not have felt alienated in school if there was more equitable education regarding white supremacy and race.

If you are sharing a space, it’s important to understand one another, Haile said.

A study from the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that two-thirds of hate crimes go unreported to the police, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. The same study shows that out of 867 post-election hate incidents, 183 occurred in K–12 institutions and 140 were on college campuses across the country.



» COURTESY OSCAR VALDEZ

Columbia College Chicago Assembly will be hosting a discussion with David Stovall (pictured) focusing on white supremacy in the classroom.

Stovall says people refrain from addressing white supremacy because engagement is perceived as divisive.

“It’s about dedication to recognizing how white supremacy operates,” Stovall said. “We have to engage and be uncomfortable. We have to be able to rest in our discomfort.”

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Student Piano & Strings Recital #2	7:00 pm
at the Sherwood	

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO



CAREER CENTER

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 10/2** Resumes for Designers — *Workshop*
- 10/3** Freelance Toolkit Series Part 1: Intro to Freelancing; Tuesday Session — *Workshop*
Resumes for Performers — *Workshop*
- 10/4** Getting the Most Out of Handshake — *Workshop*
Resumes for Media Professionals — *Workshop*
Freelance Toolkit Series Part 1: Intro to Freelancing; Wednesday Session — *Workshop*
- 10/5** Resumes for Communications Careers — *Workshop*
The Game of Life — *Event*
Business of Games w/ Adam Boyes — *Industry Event*
- 10/10** Freelance Toolkit Series Part 2: Establish Your Freelance Business; Tuesday Session — *Workshop*
Internship Orientation — *Workshop*
- 10/11** Getting the Most Out of Handshake — *Workshop*
Prep Session: Performing Arts Job Fair — *Career Prep Event*
- 10/12** Portfolios Basics: From building to presenting a professional body of work — *Portfolio Workshop*
Portfolio Special Topics: Building Portfolio Content — *Portfolio Workshop*
- 10/13** Prep Session: Performing Arts Job Fair — *Career Prep Event*
- 10/16** Prep Session: Performing Arts Job Fair — *Career Prep Event*
Performing Arts Internship and Career Fair — *Industry Event*
- 10/17** Getting into Grad School — *Career Prep Event*
Making and Marketing Your Art with Mary Virginia Swanson — *Industry Event and Portfolio Reviews*
Ad Club Meeting: Hosted by the Career Center
- 10/18** Design Paths UI/UX How & Why Panel — *Industry Event*
Freelance Toolkit Series Part 2: Establish Your Freelance Business; Wednesday Session — *Workshop*
7 Interviewing Skills to Master — *Career Prep Event*
- 10/19** Derek Van Pelt: Adventures in Comedy — *Industry Event*
H2H: Fashion/Retail — *Here To Hire*
- 10/20** Weisman Opening Reception
- 10/23** Creative Practice Series: Writing Your Artist Statement — *Portfolio Workshop*
- 10/25** Info Session: Internship Award — *Career Prep Event*
- 10/26** Portfolio Special Topics: Online Creative Networks — *Portfolio Workshop*
- 10/31** Internship Award Info Session — *Career Prep Event*

P-Fac files Unfair Labor Practice alleging contract violation

» FILE PHOTO



President of the part-time faculty union Diana Vallera said she was told by the college that adjunct professors would have to take a pay cut to teach courses in Columbia College Chicago Online, prompting the filing of an Unfair Labor Practice.

» CONNOR CARYNSKI &
TESSA BRUBAKER
CAMPUS EDITOR &
CAMPUS REPORTER

COLUMBIA'S PART-TIME faculty union filed an Unfair Labor Practice with the National Labor Relations Board against the college Aug. 22 for allegedly denying adjunct professors the opportunity to teach courses in the college's online learning initiative, Columbia College Chicago Online, unless they agree to receive a lower pay rate than their current lowest contractual rate.

P-Fac President and adjunct professor in the Photography Department Diana Vallera said the college did not originally list adjuncts on a roster for new CCC Online courses and when she brought the matter to the college's attention, she was told adjunct

professors would only be able to teach the courses if they agreed to work below their lowest three-hour contractual rate of \$3,869.

CCC Online currently consists of nine courses, all staffed by full-time faculty. The program was launched over the summer under the leadership of Vice Provost for Digital Learning Robert Green as part of the college's efforts to increase its online education capabilities.

"I think they would like part-time [faculty to teach], but they want us to obviously violate our own contract and negotiate terms that are lower than our lowest pay rate," Vallera said.

Vallera added that the request to take a lower wage than their base pay waives seniority provisions, meaning their pay would be the same regardless of how long an adjunct worked for the college.

P-Fac members have been permitted to teach online courses in the past without salary cuts and are still allowed to teach courses outside of CCC Online for their normal wages, according to Vallera. She added that the college

gave no rationale for excluding P-Fac from the classes beyond saying it had only budgeted for faculty members at a certain rate.

Mike Persoon, P-Fac's attorney from Despres, Schwartz and Geoghegan, Ltd., said the union is not sure what adjuncts would be paid if they were to accept the salary decrease or what full-time faculty currently teaching the courses are being paid.

Vallera said she has been unable to follow-up with the college on this issue and that she has received no further information from the college about it.

The News Office declined to comment on the case, saying the college has yet to file a response to the ULP; however, college spokeswoman Cara Birch issued an emailed statement to The Chronicle Sept. 27.

"The college believes this charge is without merit and intends to defend against the claim; the college otherwise declines to comment further on any pending NLRB cases," the statement read.

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

Education Program moving to HHSS Department with suspended admissions

» OLIVIA DELOIAN
CAMPUS REPORTER

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD Education program and Teaching Artist and Education minors have been moved to the Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department—dissolving the Education Department—and will no longer accept applications for the Fall 2018 Semester.

Carol Rozansky, former Education chair and current professor in the HHSS Department, said the college will continue to teach all required courses in Early Childhood Education so students can still receive their bachelor's degrees and be licensed as early education teachers.

Steven Corey, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said the change is due to the college

assessing its enrollment, adjusting fiscal resources and reforming its curriculum. About 31 students remain in the department and they played a role in the decision to consolidate the programs, he said.

"It's a department that has seen declining enrollments that [is] at the point where the question is: Is it viable to have the department with that many students?" Corey said.

Katelynn Caleca, a junior education major, said she heard about the change from one of her professors and thinks the program has low enrollment because potential students are unaware of its existence. Caleca also said education is not necessarily associated with art.

"It would be nice to see the program come back and have more emphasis put on it, have it be advertised, so people know this college offers this major," Caleca

said. "Education is more creative than people would assume."

HHSS Chair Erin McCarthy declined to comment and directed The Chronicle to Corey.

Although the programs are now under HHSS and enrollment is halted, Corey said the hold is temporary, and the move should not necessarily be considered a department merger.

He added that the college is still deciding whether Education will remain in the HHSS Department. The decision to suspend admissions permanently will not be made until after fall 2018.

Corey said there have not been other faculty changes in addition to Rozansky's appointment to a full-time professor, and that should remain in the future, according to Corey. He said because Columbia is a private



» JOCELYN MORENO/CHRONICLE

institution with no external resources, smaller programs do end up costing more money, which is another factor the college has taken into consideration.

"It will be sad to see our program go," Rozansky said. "We connect

a lot to the community, [and] our students are out in schools all in Chicago and around Chicago. We're proud of our work and what we have accomplished [as a program] over all of these years."

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Alumni give students insight on how to achieve success

» OLIVIA DELOIAN
CAMPUS REPORTER

ACHIEVING CAREERS, BALANCING internships senior year and adjusting to the work-life after graduation were all part of the stories told by 2017 alumni at “Alumni Panel: Don’t Worry, I Was in Your Shoes Last Year,” a Q&A event hosted by the Career Center.

The panel, held Sept. 26 at 618 S. Michigan Ave., included speakers Jacob Wittich, reporter for the Sun-Times Wire and former managing editor at The Chronicle; Rachelle French, on-air talent at radio station Cumulus Chicago; Samantha Hoefs, executive assistant at MAB Capital Management; and Jared Sawdey, graphic designer at Uptake, a predictive analytics company.

Tom Joyce, internship and career adviser in the Career



2017 Alumni discussed their success in finding jobs after college. Students asked questions about how to find jobs in their fields.

Center, said he organized the event to calm anxieties of the class of 2018 by showcasing recent successes of alumni.

“I’m bringing them back to speak with students and give them their insight, tips and tricks that might work for them in the future,” Joyce said.

The panel included a Q&A session, with questions ranging

from how they got a hold of their jobs to how they have acclimated to life after college. Questions were asked by Joyce and students attending the panel.

French said using the tools and equipment Columbia provided allowed her to perfect her skills and learn about the radio industry. Knowledge of those tools also helped her find a job at WLS-FM

radio station after working there at her first internship in summer 2016, she added.

French said she has been promoted to a producer for The Loop, a Chicago radio station, and owes her growing success to networking. Her advice to future Columbia graduates was to talk to as many people as possible to make connections just as she has.

Senior communication major Naquesha Richardson said she came away from the event with hope for her future career post-graduation.

“It’s good to see people who I’m gonna’ be like in a couple of months,” Richardson said. “It’s like, ‘Yeah, you can do this, you’re freaking out now, but you can do this,’” she added.

Richardson said French’s experiences resonated with her because she hopes to combine radio news with being an on-air personality, and said the panel gave her an idea of how to achieve that.

Discussing experiences as a designer, Sawdey said Columbia’s biggest resource is the faculty.

Sawdey said he now works for the CEO at Uptake, doing exactly what he wanted to do post-graduation. He suggested that students reach out to people outside the college also, as a networking tool.

Panelists like Sawdey and others represent Columbia, Joyce said, because of their numerous on-campus jobs and internships, as well as their different areas of success.

“I thought it was nice to bring the four of them together, and this way we appeal to the whole school,” Joyce said.



Senior communication major Naquesha Richardson was one of many students asking how to achieve success in the work place.

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Faculty members showcase short film at festivals

» **TESSA BRUBAKER**
CAMPUS REPORTER

TWO PROFESSORS FROM the Cinema and Television Arts Department are spending the fall showcasing a short film they created called “The Scary Ham” at festivals nationwide.

Sue Mroz, associate professor of instruction in the Cinema and Television Arts Department, wrote and directed the film, and Carolina Posse, an assistant professor in the same department, produced it.

“The Scary Ham” focuses on two middle-aged sisters who, after the death of their father, have to clean out their childhood home together. During the process, they discover a ham in the basement that’s been hanging there for 20 years.

“The arc of the film is about how the family reforms after someone leaves it, and how that energy

remains and becomes reincorporated in different ways with them gone,” Mroz said.

The film will be showcased at festivals throughout the fall, and applications have been submitted for more festivals in the spring and summer, according to Posse. The

film has been accepted at eight film festivals across the country including the Colorado Film Festival and Kentucky’s River Edge International Film Festival.

Mroz adapted the film from a memoir of the same name by Ellen Klages. Inspired by the memoir,

Mroz said she saw an opportunity to tell her personal story. After experiencing the loss of her father, Mroz said she wanted to put the experience on film, stumbled across Klages’ story and knew she wanted to pursue the adaptation.

The film has already been shown at Full Bloom Festival in North Carolina, Knoxville Film Festival in Tennessee and Louisville International Film Festival in Kentucky, all during the weekend of Sept. 15–17.

After watching the premiere at Knoxville Film Festival, Mroz and Posse were thrilled with the audience’s positive feedback.

“These two years of working toward that [and] it just comes down to just that screening and that satisfaction,” Posse said. “It’s priceless really.”

Cheryl Graeff, adjunct professor in the Cinema and Television Arts Department, played the role of Ellen, one of the two sisters. She was initially drawn to the role because of the quirky script and the connection she felt to the crew.

“It was a fantastic group of people,” Graeff said. “Sue and Carolina were just amazing leaders to have.”

Mroz said that she hopes audience members leave the film remembering the importance of family and connecting with loved ones.

“This film was inspired by and is a tribute to our fathers,” Mroz said. “I hope to simply make a connection with people and remind them of their own connection with their parents, living or passed.”



Columbia faculty members Carolina Posse and Sue Mroz have worked on “The Scary Ham” film since summer 2015.

» MONICA WESTLAKE/CHRONICLE

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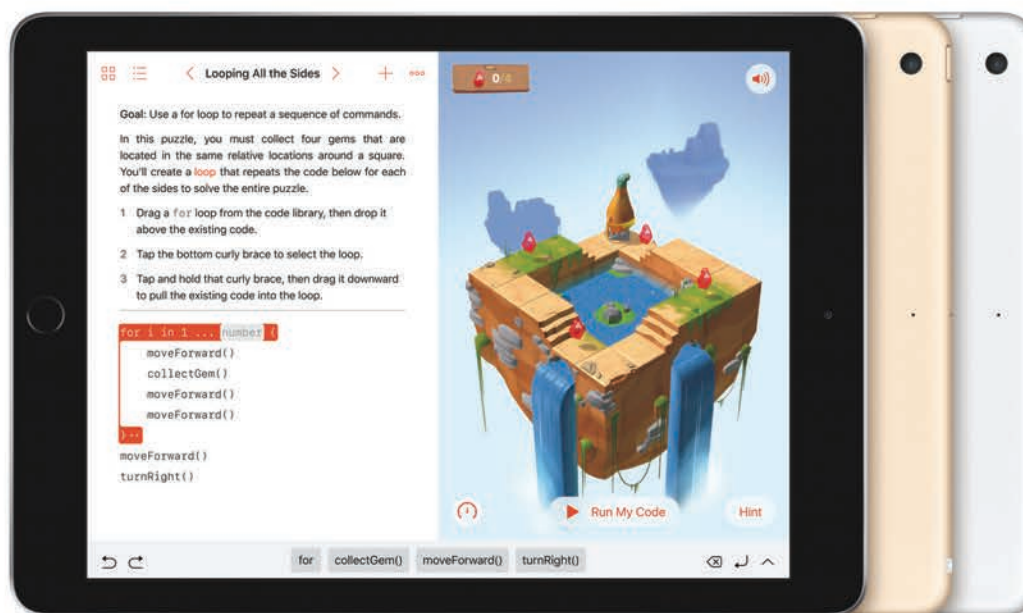
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‘No, Mr. Bond, I expect you to dine’

» JONATHAN SADOWSKI
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

AFTER WALKING THROUGH a literal hole in the wall past the identity scanners and security cameras, I sat in the Cone of Silence, scanning my surroundings for hidden weapons and watching satellites soar overhead. Agent Cane approached and gave me a simple mission: Eat.

Nestled beneath AC Hotel, accessible through a false wall in an unassuming office, SafeHouse Chicago has been feeding hungry spies since March. A Milwaukee food scene staple since 1966, the original restaurant was sold to the Marcus Corporation in 2015.

Now six months into the Chicago location's run, SafeHouse, 60 E. Ontario St., invited The Chronicle for a complimentary meal and a chance to discuss the future of the mom-and-pop shop turned brand.

Customers, or “agents” as the themed restaurant's staff says, must first either provide a password for entry or complete a mission to prove their allegiance to “Central.” Because it was our first mission, Chronicle Photographer Erin Brown and I were tasked with performing the “YMCA” dance three times at increasingly demanding speeds before we were allowed to descend into the spy lounge.

“People come here and they expect an experience,” said Heather Converse, assistant general manager of SafeHouse Chicago. “Some people look at us and they're like, ‘Are you crazy?’ and other people are like, ‘Oh, this is hilarious.’”

Converse's spy alias is “Agent Hi-Tops”; all restaurant employees go by codenames,

and patrons must fill out a name tag with their own secret identities. I went by “J.K. Tiongson,” and Brown took on the pseudonym “Babe Ruthless.”

Business at the restaurant is conducted in spy jargon, with food items called “rations” and drinks “libations.” Meals are referred to as “missions” and receipts are jokingly labeled “damage reports.”

Between courses, customers are free to walk around, complete scavenger hunts and investigate the more unique elements. For example, a sexy Daniel Craig picture adorns the wall in the ladies' restroom, with a leaf over his crotch. Should someone touch the leaf, an alarm goes off both inside and outside the bathroom. Likewise, whenever the toilet is flushed in the men's room, a call of “package delivered” plays over the restaurant's loudspeaker.

Chicago residents have been eating the corniness up, with the getaway's popularity rising steadily since it opened, said Converse, who formerly worked at SafeHouse Milwaukee. The new location has been so successful, she added, that Marcus Corp. has plans to expand in the near future. The location and time are classified pieces of intel, but it will likely open within the next year, Converse said.

Marcus Corp. CEO Greg Marcus, who Marcus Theatres moviegoers will recognize from his signature filmed monologues that play before movies, is a big proponent

of spy flicks and hugely enthusiastic about making SafeHouse a larger, national brand, Converse added.

Having been to the original SafeHouse in Milwaukee about 10 years ago, I remembered it as a cool experience but did not look back with any strong feelings—good or bad—toward the food. As such, I did not have particularly high expectations going into the meal, but my order of Rybat—short rib braised in Guinness and stacked atop mashed potatoes—was as tasty as one of James Bonds' watches is dangerous.

The SafeHouse even tied with Au Cheval for best burger in this year's Chicago Magazine Readers' Choice poll, a testament to the culinary skills of head chef David Hardy, aka Agent Pickles.

With the move to Chicago and a revised menu comes an expected upcharge compared to the original location. Had SafeHouse not covered the meal—one appetizer, two entrees, two desserts and a Pepsi—it would have rung up at \$81.10 after tax, and that's not even taking a tip into account.

Ouch. Cover blown. Not the friendliest place for a college budget, no matter how good the food is.

But that's the price one pays for experiential dining. A magician wandered around the place “hypnotizing agents” with his tricks; props, airplane parts and interactive screens lined the walls; and the password is hidden in two places around the hideout for those who would like to return.

In terms of sheer design, the SafeHouse was a sight to behold. Everything down to the “secret exit”—a corridor of alarmed lasers, which I tripped several times before I made my escape—is convincingly orchestrated to immerse customers in the world of espionage.

“The best decision David [Rupert, SafeHouse's original owner, who died six months after selling the restaurant] made was to sell it to somebody who believes in the brand so much,” Converse said. “In order to work here, you have to be a little quirky, you have to be a little weird and you have to embrace the culture and really love it.”

jsadowski@columbiachronicle.com



» PHOTOS ERIN BROWN/CHRONICLE



LIVE

» **ARIANA PORTALATIN**
MANAGING EDITOR

from my desk chair

Librarian justified in rejection of book donation

A Cambridgeport Elementary School librarian in Massachusetts recently rejected a donation of 10 Dr. Seuss books from First Lady Melania Trump Sept. 26, sparking a debate on whether the rejection was justified. But the debate should do more than discuss the first lady and politics of education. It should start an important conversation on the lack of funding for libraries and schools across the country, leading to a growing absence of educational access.

Cambridgeport Elementary School was chosen to receive the donation Sept. 6 as a part of National Read a Book Day, for which the first lady sent 10 books to one school in every state. The school’s librarian, Liz Phipps Soeiro, defended her decision to reject the donation in the Horn Book’s Family Reading Blog, which was not previously approved by the school district but did raise good points as to why the rejection was justified. Soeiro claimed the school had enough resources and did not need the books like other schools did, particularly in cities like Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit suffering from the effects of expansion, privatization and school choice. She also criticized the books as “cliché” and “racist propaganda.”

“Why not go out of your way to gift books to underfunded and underprivileged communities that continue to be marginalized and maligned by policies put in place by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos?” the Sept. 26 blog post said. “Why not reflect on those ‘high standards of excellence’ beyond only what the numbers suggest? Secretary DeVos would do well to scaffold and lift schools instead of punishing them with closures and slashed budgets.”

While some who disagreed with Soeiro said the librarian should have just taken the books and donated them to a place in need, the point is she shouldn’t have to. According to the White House’s website, the schools were chosen with help from the Department of Education based on their “high standards of excellence” and recognition through state and national awards. Soeiro does identify an important flaw in



the White House’s consideration. Schools that were chosen for books should have been those that needed them the most.

A March 16 press release from the American Library Association called President Donald Trump’s proposal to eliminate federal library funding in his 2018 fiscal year budget “counterproductive and short-sighted.” ALA President Julie Todaro said in the statement that funding for the library is used to provide multiple resources to the public, including assistance for veterans transitioning to civilian life, small businesses seeking to expand their business online, summer reading programs, resources for blind and hearing-impaired patrons and job skill preparations for youth.

Opponents think politics should be kept out of education, but the government’s job is to provide for the wellbeing of its people, and when the educational funding is continuously kept from those that need it the most, it becomes rightfully politicized.

Soeiro should not have just accepted the gift and said thank you because doing so would fail to acknowledge the shortfalls our educational systems face and would only contribute to the persistent problem. If standing up for the rights of others is “rude” or “disrespectful,” then so be it. And if the first lady truly believes education is an important and beneficial opportunity to be taken advantage of as she says, she should work to provide that opportunity to every school nationwide, not simply those that have already set the bar for excellence.

aportalatin@columbiachronicle.com



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Thursday, Oct. 5

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Friday, Oct. 6

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Riviera Theatre
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7:30 p.m.
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Sunday, Oct. 8

PIXIES

Chicago Theatre
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7:30 p.m.
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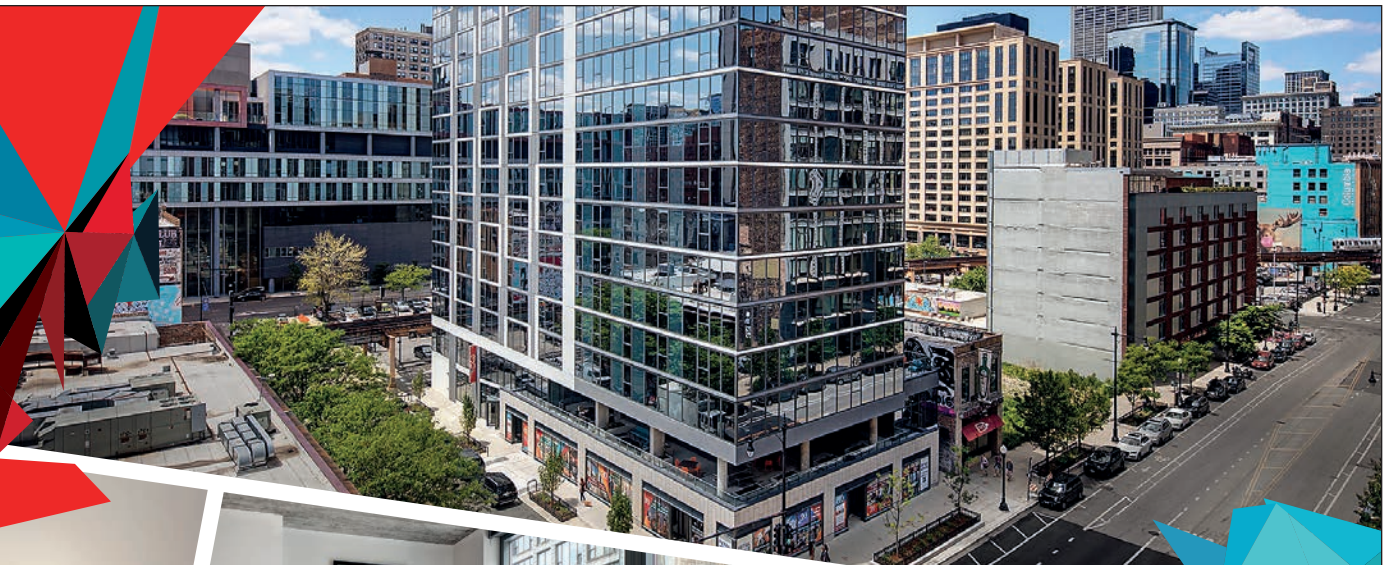
FROM THE FRONT ROW

Harry Styles played his first solo show to a sold-out crowd Sept. 26 at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., as part of his worldwide tour.



» ERIN BROWN/CHRONICLE

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New film festival highlights South Side creativity

» MIRANDA MANIER
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

THE SOUTH SIDE'S unsavory depictions in media headlines are a distraction from the area's brighter, softer, more creative side, said Michelle Kennedy, producer of the inaugural South Side Film Festival, which she sees as an antidote to this sensationalism.

The festival will be held Oct. 6-8 at Studio Movie Grill, 210 W. 87th St., and will feature videos about the area produced by locals, along with those located elsewhere. The idea for the festival came to Kennedy after a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington D.C. in March.

"I realized how much of our nation's history evolved in Chicago," Kennedy said. "More specifically, African-American

history has a lot of roots in Chicago. I'm also a movie buff and I attend a lot of film festivals all over the world. So I was thinking it would be nice if we had a film festival that could highlight African-American history and culture in Chicago."

Kennedy said the festival's purpose is to showcase the South Side's creative and cultural facets that are overshadowed by its typical portrayal as a problematic space.

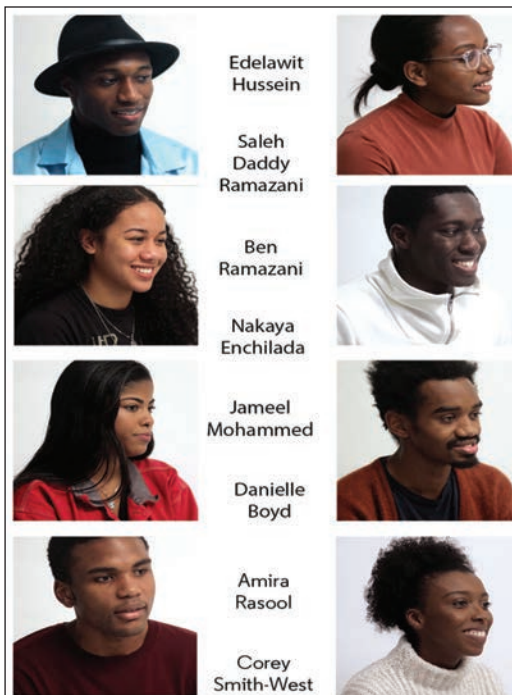
Chicagoans need to know that the South Side has a special and storied place in cinema history, Kennedy said. She cited Floyd Webb, founder of Chicago's first black-oriented film festival, the Blacklight Festival of International Black Cinema, as another inspiration to create the festival.

"I want people to realize that the South Side is full of people who

are productive and creative," Kennedy said. "I want them to see it as an artistic fountain, a source of creativity and new things that we can all enjoy."

Akili King, a 22-year-old recent New York University graduate and Hyde Park native, will have her documentary "Rise" screened.

"There's a lot of violence that we hear about that goes on in Chicago," King said. "Positive ways that we can bring the community together are always beneficial, especially engaging with artists on the South Side."



RISE

A Short Film by Akili King

The South Side Film Festival, Oct. 6-8, will screen stories by and about South Side residents.

"Rise," King said, tells a story she wished she could have seen growing up. In the documentary, King interviews young black artists in

New York City, asking them how their art has helped them overcome the adversity they faced as people of color.

"I wanted to represent the different spectrums of blackness," King said, "and eradicate any stereotypes that might be placed upon black people."

Ashley Parker, a junior communication major and South Side resident, said she would consider attending because the prospect of exploring the South Side's creativity intrigued her.

Kennedy said she hopes that the South Side Film Festival will become an annual event, noting she has already been approached by filmmakers regarding submissions for next year.

"I hope that this is something people all over the city can enjoy," Kennedy said. "We're starting with just three days this year, but I'd like to eventually get it to a week or even a month like some of the other large film festivals. I feel like the sky is the limit."

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South Siders drop EP to raise scholarship funds

» ALEXA RIXON
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

THREE YOUNG SOUTH Side men, working to raise scholarship funds through The Better Man Than Me Foundation, dropped collaborative hip-hop EP *Better Man* on iTunes Sept. 19 to help fund these scholarships.

Darius Washington, 23, one of the EP artists, said he and other collaborators—rapper Jayson Roberts, 20, and Ken Willis, 19, a producer and student at SAE Institute—are striving to be better men and want to motivate neighborhood youth who are clients of the foundation to further their self growth and education.

“This EP was something I wanted to do from my heart and give back to the children that are coming after me, the ones that look up to me,” Washington said.

The Better Man Than Me Foundation has worked to “promote success and responsible stewardship among young men” since 2011, said Paul Phillips, the foundation’s founder and CEO.

The foundation aims to provide at least one scholarship each year to young men entering their freshman or sophomore year of college, Phillips said. Applicants must write an essay about themselves, their aspirations and what they have done or will do to give back to the community. This year it awarded a \$5,000 scholarship in August. The award amount changes every year depending on funding, and the group’s long term goal is \$10,000, Phillips said.



Hip-hop EP *Better Man* features three young South Side artists with proceeds funding scholarships.

Phillips was raised by a single mother, and now that he has three college degrees—including a Doctorate in Divinity from the Hope Seminary and Bible Institute—and success, he said he wanted to give back to young men by teaching them leadership skills and stewardship. He said he accomplishes this with mentoring activities such as basketball with invited halftime speakers. Topics include stopping violence, goal setting and relationships.

The goal of *Better Man* is to encourage everybody, particularly young men, to grow and not give up, Phillips said. Three main songs written by the artists include “Unbreakable,” “Unstoppable” and “Unleash.” Phillips said the idea was sparked in February, and he picked the titles and concept while the three artists wrote lyrics based around them. “Unbreakable,” written by Washington, is about not letting any roadblocks get in the way despite pain and emotion. “Unleash”

is a reminder not to hold back any talents and let them show, and “Unstoppable” is described as an anthem about not being discouraged by life’s ups and downs.

Music is not only a vehicle for raising scholarship funds but part of the foundation’s core because many young people are interested in rapping, Phillips said.

“We wanted to encourage the children to express themselves in a positive way through music and to teach them how to plan for their career, whether it’s in music or not,” Phillips said.

Growing up in West Englewood, Washington said he lost many friends to gun violence, and he encourages kids to take their own direction to become a success.

“[I tell] the kids behind me on the block, ‘If you have a dream, chase after that dream. If you want to go to college, go to college,’” Washington said. “You don’t have to be like the guys on the streets. You don’t have to be ‘the man’ or the shooter or anything else that’s going on in Chicago right now.”

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Chicago Filmmakers to reopen in old Edgewater firehouse

» ALEXA RIXON
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

CHICAGO FILMMAKERS, WHICH offers independent film screenings and classes, will relocate to a former Edgewater firehouse this October—the culmination of a four-year process in which the group submitted an arts proposal to the city and was awarded ownership of the space.

Renovating the firehouse, 5714 N. Ridge Ave., required the group to raise about \$1 million, which was financed with \$400,000 in donations and a five-year mortgage to cover the rest, according to Brenda Webb, executive director of Chicago Filmmakers, adding that he group paid the city only \$36,000 for the space.

Ald. Harry Osterman (48th Ward) championed the idea of making the space available to a cultural or community group.

“It was important to try and find a way for it to be a place that would

benefit the entire community—not just a place for someone to buy a home or business that would be for themselves, but for the community [to] bring people together,” Osterman said.

Webb said the move will expand the organization as a home for both civic and cultural engagement and screening films the community wants to see.

“There’s an expectation and an obligation on the part of the organization to serve the public,” she said.

The facility is scheduled to host the Chicago International REEL Shorts Film Fest in November, which is open to filmmakers worldwide, according to the Film Fest website. Other programs will be scheduled once settled in.

Programs are still in the planning stage, Webb said, but she hopes the facility will be collaborating with Senn High School two blocks away and Loyola University Chicago.



Former Edgewater firehouse will soon house Chicago Filmmakers with increased community engagement programs and activities.

The group held a day camp this summer and has both youth and adult programs. One youth program started Sept. 24 and includes a six-week course in making animation with plastic LEGO blocks.

Webb said she is also collaborating with other community film curators to host programming in the new facility. Expanding the program will reflect multiple perspectives, interests and tastes to more

accurately represent communities, she said.

Floyd Webb—no relation to Brenda Webb—curator of Black Worlds Cinema at Studio Movie Grill Chatham, said he is working with Chicago Filmmakers to produce a series that will appeal to the African immigrant community in nearby Uptown. He is meeting community organizations to come up with programming for both children and adults.

“Instead of imposing a program, I want to get something cooperative,” Floyd Webb said. “It’s really about engaging the youth in the community, too. To give them a bit of a media literacy in order to forge a new work for our future.”

Renovating the building has proved challenging with occasional delays, Brenda Webb said, including waiting for the city to install three-phase electricity to the neighborhood, which provides more consistent power but would have been too costly for the group to install on its own.

In addition, the renovated building has a ground floor that can be easily converted from screening room to a meeting space allowing for multi-purpose use and community activities, Brenda Webb said.

Osterman said he is pleased to see the project’s completion. “The Chicago Filmmakers will be a wonderful entity to bring people together for film, to produce films, to make films, [and] to watch films so it worked out very well,” he said.

» MACKENZIE CROSSON/CHRONICLE

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1. In a large bowl, submerge almonds in water and soak overnight (8-12 hours).
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3. Blend almonds and filtered water for 30 seconds.
4. Pour blended mixture through cheesecloth (I use Ellie's Best Nut Milk Bag) and wring out as much liquid as possible into bowl.
5. Discard almond pulp, or save for other uses.
6. Blend strained almond milk, pumpkin, cinnamon and ginger for 5 seconds.
7. Store in milk bottle or other container.
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» **AMELIA DETWILER AND MACKENZIE CROSSON/CHRONICLE**

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Since kindergarten, Sid Marcos was left out. While her friends were on the playground, Marcos sat in her wheelchair, grounded to the cement because of a set of steps she could not hurdle. She asked her teacher if she could play on the upper levels of the playground, but her teacher said no.

Marcos was left a step under people, and this put her a step behind.

Marcos, who has been paralyzed since she was a year old, felt insecure about herself because she thought something was wrong with her body. She was upset by peoples' insensitivity to disabilities and the lack of positive images of women like her. The overwhelming amount of negativity alienated her from other people with disabilities.

"I didn't have disabled figures to look up to [in] the realm of beauty or cross-identity," she said. "There were no [people with disabilities] present; there wasn't representation."

Women like Marcos have largely been ignored by mainstream media and excluded from traditional views of beauty. The

FASHION ACKNOWLEDGES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

STORY BY
KENDRAH VILLIESSE AND MOLLY WALSH
DESIGN BY
JOCELYN MORENO

Open Style Lab—a nonprofit that designs stylish clothing for people of all abilities—started at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was founded after the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing to help victims of the attack, many of whom were left with disabilities.

The lab became a class in fall 2016 at Parsons School of Design, during which occupational therapists and students created functional and fashionable designs for people with disabilities, according to Christina Mallon, an Open Style Lab board member who has been

paralyzed in both arms for seven years.

In the class, students are paired with clients who have disabilities and design garment prototypes that can better assist the clients' needs, Mallon said. The prototypes are then presented to an audience of fashion editors and product designers, she added.

A group of students in a 2016 Parsons case study created the SUITable, an adaptive and adjustable sport coat equipped with magnetic closures for individuals with limited dexterity.

"[The audience is] really surprised that something doesn't exist for their need," Mallon said. "These students have taken the time to take this class because they want to include [people with disabilities] and I think [audience members] are really excited to see these students putting [people with disabilities] first."

existence of women with disabilities has been routinely overlooked, making them feel invisible. But these women have voices, and they are using them to loudly proclaim they are here and cannot be ignored.

One in five Americans has a disability, and more than half of them are female, according to the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in Washington, D.C. Yet just one out of 143 advertisements in the top five selling magazines for 2014 featured a person with a disability, according to an article on PUSHLiving.com, a website devoted to changing the way people view and include the disabled population.

Motivated to challenge the status quo, Marcos, now 25, launched ThisIsCRIPPLE, a vlog that discusses the social representation and perceptions of disability. The vlog also comments on beauty and media images of oppressed communities. ThisIsCRIPPLE averages 5,000 views a month, according to Marcos.

This level of exposure, although important, is ultimately small relative to mainstream media's reach.

"If you're not seen on the screens or on the billboards or in the magazines, you're ultimately not valuable in society," said Katie Driscoll, founder and president of Changing the Face of Beauty—a nonprofit advocating equal representation of people with disabilities in advertising and media.

Driscoll's daughter, now almost 8 years old, has Down syndrome. When her daughter was born, Driscoll recognized the need her daughter and others like her would have

for greater inclusion, and Driscoll started Changing the Face of Beauty around 2011. Since then, the nonprofit has partnered with more than 120 companies, including Nordstrom and Matilda Jane Clothing, in four different countries to include people with disabilities in their advertisements.

"People honestly don't believe that the disability community is that profound of a consumer. It's unfortunate," Driscoll said. "In our country, advertising dictates who is valuable."

That same tyrannical thinking haunts the runways on which high fashion is displayed. Despite the rather high percentage of Americans with disabilities, there has only been a limited number of shows that include women with disabilities. But this isn't due to a lack of models.

Toronto model Wendy Crawford was on her way to the airport to tackle her first international assignment 33 years ago when an impaired driver hit her and injured the then 19-year-old's spinal cord. Crawford is now quadriplegic, unable to move any of her limbs.

She tried to continue her modeling career, but agencies refused to book her. Crawford, now in her 50s, said she became insecure after her manager sent pictures to possible employers but never received any responses from them.

"They didn't really know what to do with me, and modeling in a wheelchair was pretty unheard of at that time," Crawford said.

Crawford added that she would compare herself to other models at casting calls and didn't understand what the difference was between her body in a wheelchair and the other bodies standing next to her. She just wanted to show that there are different kinds of beauty, and everyone deserves to be considered beautiful.

Knowing that other women must feel as she did, Crawford created the website MobileWOMEN.org, an online magazine for women with disabilities seeking information about health, fashion, body image and self-esteem problems. The website has between 6,000–14,000 visitors a month.

"It's important for people to embrace who they are and feel comfortable in their own skin," Crawford said. "When you do that, it is very powerful and empowering. When you feel empowered, the world opens up and there are so many things available to you."

The advertising world's exclusionary beauty ideals and lack of diversity create an environment in which women with disabilities feel undesirable, said Rosemary Hughes, senior research scientist at the Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities at the University of Montana in Missoula.

"A lot of the characteristics of disability, the scars that we may have [or] use of devices, has an impact on the way society views a person, and it may also have an impact on how women with disabilities view themselves," Hughes said.

Baylor University's Center for Research on Women with Disabilities has conducted extensive research into issues such as sexuality, self-esteem and self-image. Its website, which summarizes decades of research,

notes: "Women with disabilities often talk about establishing intimate relationships but receive strong messages that they are not suitable intimate partners. In one study, women with disabilities, when compared to women without disabilities, were less likely to be involved in romantic relationships."

Natalia Hemley, a 2015 Columbia journalism alumna, experienced a different form of this discrimination: Men who were attracted to her had problems of accepting her use of a wheelchair because her looks defied certain stereotypes.

"People don't believe that I actually need to use my chair," Hemley said. "They're like, 'Oh, you look so normal,' because I'm a cute, blonde girl using a chair ... I will go out with my friends to a club and a guy will have hit on me and said, 'Oh, that chair is just a prop, right? You don't actually use that because you don't look like you belong in one.' I never understood what that means."

For fashion and beauty ideals to change, Hemley said brands must feature all walks of life by showing that people who use a wheelchair are beautiful too.

To break these social misconceptions and barriers, Crawford and Ginny Dixon, a photographer who has been part of two Pulitzer Prize-winning staffs at the Los Angeles Times, created The Raw Beauty Project to broaden perceptions of beauty.

The project showcases photos of women living with various disabilities, capturing their beauty, power and passion. The exhibit debuted in 2014 at ACA Galleries in New York City and has been featured in popular publications such as O, The Oprah Magazine and the Huffington Post.

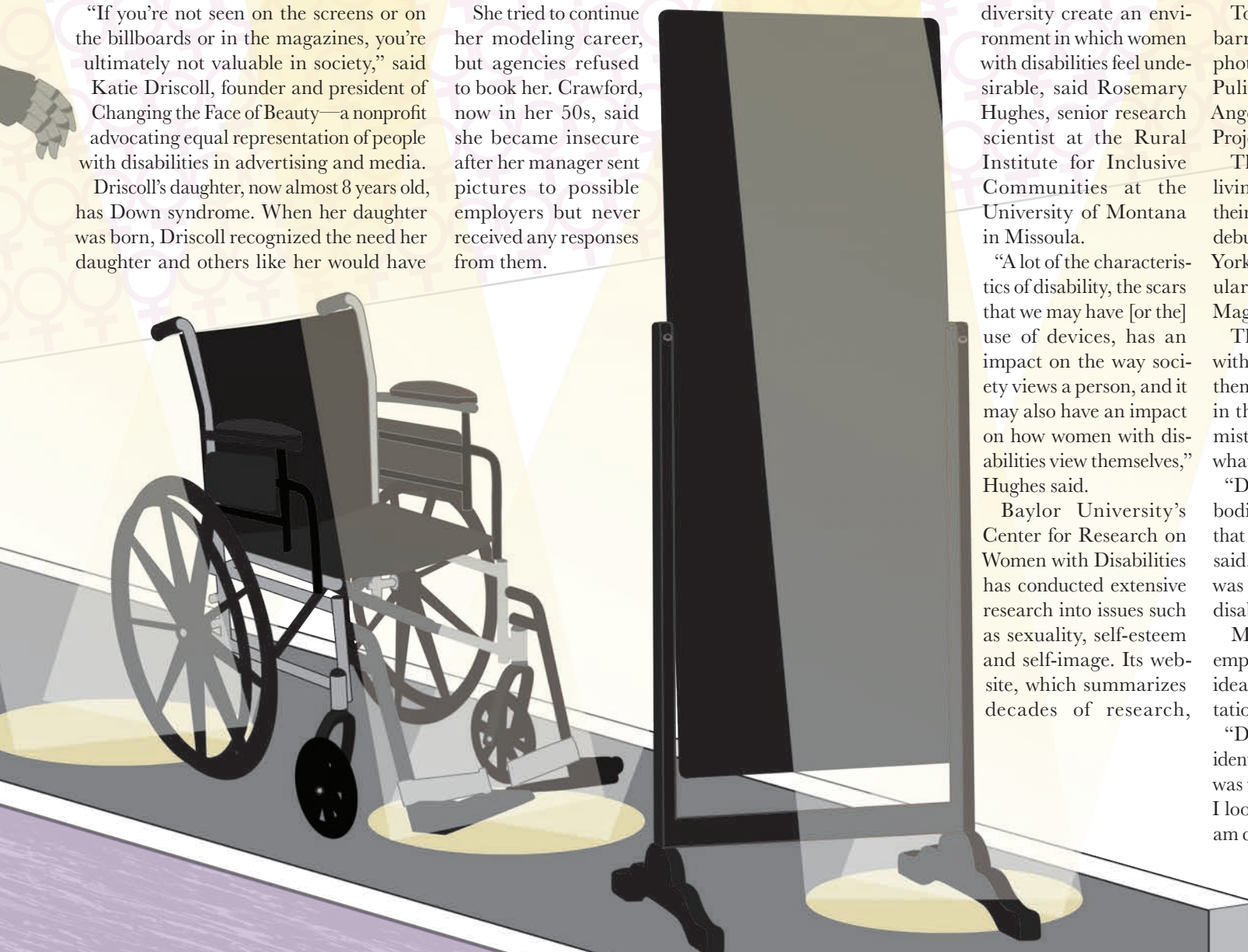
These measures taken to provide women with disabilities a platform to speak and let themselves be seen are only the first steps in the culture of seeing disabled bodies as mistakes because they are different from what is traditionally seen as "normal."

"Disabled people are taught to hate their bodies in a way that 'we'll never change,' so that is the most unhealthy part of it," Marcos said. "I never hated being disabled and that was what alienated me so much from the disabled community."

Marcos said the vlog makes her feel empowered because she gets to share her ideas of beauty, perception and representation to others.

"Disability is not just an illness; it's an identity," Marcos said. "Starting the vlog was this reconciliation [of] 'This is what I look like, this is who I am, and now I am comfortable with it,' and I want other people to be comfortable with themselves as they are."

chronicle@colum.edu





» JONATHON SADOWSKI
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

DAVID BELLO, VOCALIST for The World is a Beautiful Place & I am No Longer Afraid To Die, once existentially crooned “Just trying to find a way out to a city so big/That it is bound to keep your secrets.” But on one of the band’s newest tracks, “Marine Tigers,” he broaches the question: “Can you still call it a country if all the states are broken?”

This shift from symphonic, pondering emo to a politically charged, slightly more straightforward rock sound is notable in the indie rock band’s third full-length album, *Always Foreign*, released Sept. 29. The new tracks cover themes ripped straight from headlines such as the opioid epidemic, xenophobia and emotional abuse.

The Chronicle spoke with Bello in advance of the group’s Oct. 13 show at the Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave., about the new record, memes and the band members’ longstanding friendships.

THE CHRONICLE: In *Always Foreign*, why did you decide to sing about more concrete, current themes?

DAVID BELLO: That was definitely an intentional thing, mainly because we started

The World is a Beautiful Place... moves into ‘foreign’ territory

writing it around the election last year. It became something we couldn’t ignore, and we were all blown away by the result. It was impossible to avoid talking about this as a thing. Previously, it was easier to write about more abstract concepts because there were less things in our face. At the point we started writing, it was unavoidable. There’s no way to stop thinking about it, so there’s no way to not write about it.

Are there songs in which you struggle to tastefully use all seven members?

We all have the mindset that if it’s working, it’s working, but then it’s always cool to try

out adding as much as possible. If there’s too much, we can delete stuff. We even get some outside people coming in, too. We had our drummer’s father, Gary Buttery, play tuba on it, we had Matt Hull from [emo jazz band] People Like You, we had someone playing trombone [and] someone playing violin.

In a prior interview, you said something to the effect of “*Always Foreign* is *The World is a Beautiful Place...* but better.”

I always feel like what we’re [currently] doing is better than what we’ve done before. If it wasn’t, it would be a disappointment. There’s always room to progress, and I definitely feel

Seven-piece indie rock band *The World is a Beautiful Place & I am No Longer Afraid To Die* released its third full-length album, *Always Foreign*, Sept. 29.



» COURTESY SHERVIN LAINEZ

like this record did that to a huge degree. We hadn’t recorded or written anything in maybe a year, maybe more than a year before we started working on this record. Coming back to do this felt really good, and we’re all super proud of it.

Who’s behind the band’s memes and self-deprecating humor on your social media accounts?

We all have very related senses of humor—sort of a collective opinion about things. It’s mainly Chris [Teti, guitarist] and Dylan [Balliet, guitarist and vocalist] who use the Twitter account. They don’t really do anything we don’t support. It’s a group effort in that sense. There’s some good ones on the marquees at venues if they put our name up outside. We played in Phoenix a couple tours ago, and [a marquee] said something like “The World is a Beautiful—I’m tired of writing on this sign.” That wasn’t us—we got there and they’d done it, and it was hilarious.

Are you all old friends?

It’s kind of a mix. The majority of the people in the band are from Connecticut, and they all knew each other. Me and Dylan are from West Virginia. We’ve known each other for 13 years; [we] were best friends for a long time. Everybody else was either best friends or knew each other from playing in bands together. Then we all linked up, and for the last few years, we’re all best friends.

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» ZOË EITEL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

- “What Makes You Beautiful” One Direction
- “The A Team” Ed Sheeran
- “I Knew You Were Trouble” Taylor Swift
- “R U Mine?” Arctic Monkeys
- “Chocolate” The 1975



» SAVANNAH EADENS
METRO REPORTER

- “Partition” Beyoncé
- “Absolutely (Story of a Girl)” Nine Days
- “Baby Got Back” Sir Mix A Lot
- “Don’t Trust Me” 3OH!3
- “Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)” Katy Perry



» JONATHON SADOWSKI
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

- “I Feel It Coming” The Weeknd
- “Pursuit of Happiness” Kid Cudi
- “Thinking Out Loud” Ed Sheeran
- “Love Story” Taylor Swift
- “Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1” Kanye West



» ALEX SWAN
COPY EDITOR

- “Empire State of Mind” Jay Z
- “Toxic” Britney Spears
- “The Sweet Escape” Gwen Stefani
- “Irreplaceable” Beyoncé
- “The Climb” Miley Cyrus



» JACKIE MURRAY
METRO EDITOR

- “Super Bass” Nicki Minaj
- “London Bridge” Fergie
- “Baby” Justin Bieber
- “Gold Digger” Kanye West
- “White Iverson” Post Malone



» LAUREN CARLTON
COPY CHIEF

- “Yeah!” Usher
- “Low” Flo Rida
- “She Knows” Ne-Yo feat. Juicy J
- “Jumpman” Drake
- “Strip That Down” Liam Payne feat. Quavo

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CHECK *me* OUT

» KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

WHAT FICTIONAL CHARACTER
WOULD YOU DRESS LIKE?



Cody Schlabaugh
senior photography major

"Nigel Thornberry from 'The Wild Thornberrys'"



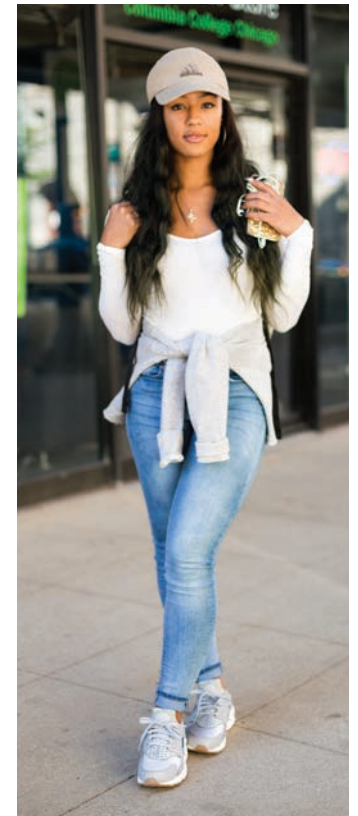
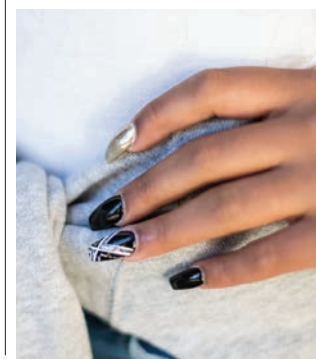
Isabella Norton
sophomore cinema and
television arts major

"Belle from 'Beauty and the Beast'"



Whitney Stahl
freshman business and
entrepreneurship major

"Cher from 'Clueless'"



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top

our staff's
top 5 picks:



Album review: Macklemore's 'GEMINI'

» LAUREN CARLTON
COPY CHIEF

Macklemore's first solo album in 12 years, *GEMINI*, released Sept. 22, is a refreshing departure from his days with Ryan Lewis.

After the duo caught backlash at the 2014 Grammys for beating out Kendrick Lamar for Best Rap Album and their 2016 album, *This Unruly Mess I Made*, failed to top the charts, Macklemore made the right choice to go it alone. Though hits like "Thrift Shop" and "Same Love" are tough to follow, Macklemore ultimately succeeds by greatly improving his lyrics and overall sound. Macklemore raps about real life. He is honest and finds a way to relate to his fans.

Another interesting aspect of *GEMINI* is that it is feature-heavy, with only one of the 16 tracks performed exclusively by Macklemore. The features range from big names like Kesha and Lil Yachty, to not-so-well-known artists such as Offset and Abir. The beats and lyrics' diversity ensure this album has something for everyone.

While it contains catchy beats on songs like "Marmalade," featuring Lil Yachty, and "Corner Store," featuring Dave B & Travis Thompson, it also slows things down with an intimate sound and deeper lyrics on tracks like "Miracle," featuring Dan Caplen, and "Over It," featuring Donna Missal. Although this album is considered rap, pop/rock elements shine through in songs like "Firebreather," featuring Reignwolf, and "Ain't Gonna Die Tonight," featuring Eric Nally.

This is not an album you'll be finding at a thrift shop anytime soon.

lcarton@columbiachronicle.com



'SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS' EPISODES

» BLAISE MESA
METRO REPORTER

"Band Geeks":

This episode catered to every type of viewer and was one of few to include sports. The Bubble Bowl will go down as the greatest halftime show of all time, but more importantly, this episode spawned an iconic TV quote: "Is mayonnaise an instrument?"

"Idiot Box":

SpongeBob buys a TV but he and Patrick only plays in the box. This episode not only made audiences laugh, but taught them the power of imagination. It perfectly balances the level of slapstick humor we've come to expect from SpongeBob without overdoing it. Truly an instant classic.

"Shanghaied":

SpongeBob and Patrick find themselves enslaved on the Flying Dutchman's ship. This episode reshaped everyone's opinion of the perfume department after the characters learn the only way out is through a department store, and they attempt their daring escape. It's one of the funniest and most dramatic montages on the show.

"The Camping Episode":

Out of all the creatures in "SpongeBob," no animal is more infamous than the sea bear. This episode is relatable: Everyone has gone camping in their backyard. With the "Campfire Song Song" you have the perfect recipe for a fan favorite.

"Chocolate":

An episode so famous it needs no explanation. It has ingrained itself on modern culture. You'd be hard-pressed to buy chocolate without someone quoting it.



REASONS TO LOVE OCTOBER BASEBALL

» JACKIE MURRAY
METRO EDITOR

Excitement:

With 162 games since April, Major League Baseball can get repetitive. But the playoffs make it much more competitive. Every game means something to each team and every play counts.

Arguing with my friends:

Are the Cubs going back-to-back? No way. And trust me, I'll be sure to tell you why in a heated argument. Predicting who's going to win the World Series and feuding about the ins-and-outs of the playoffs with friends is one of the best parts of October. And don't try me because I'll pull out receipts on every player.

Not sweating at games:

There's nothing quite like going to a day game and coming back sweaty, burnt and crabby. October baseball means finally watching outdoor games comfortably. Trade that Lemon Chill in for a hot chocolate and give me all of the overpriced, MLB-licensed beanies and hoodies you have.

Twitter gets interesting:

Postseason baseball means every involved teams' Twitter accounts are pulling out all the stops to keep fans entertained. I love scrolling through my feed and seeing memes and GIFs tweeted out by teams. Sometimes different teams' Twitter accounts even interact with each other for some friendly trash talking.

Cleveland is actually good now?:

I've been waiting way too long for this to happen. Corey Kluber? Easily the 2017 AL Cy Young. Jose Ramirez has 2017 AL MVP in the bag. It's redemption season. Roll Tribe, baby.



COLOMBIAN SLANG TERMS

» SAVANNAH EADENS
METRO REPORTER

Parce:

Meaning: Bro, dude, my man, girl. Colombians like to say "parce" to anyone and everyone they meet. Consider yourself cool if you are called parce by locals in Bogotá. Example: "¿Qué pasa, parce?" or "What's up, bro?"

Chévere:

Meaning: cool, awesome. Colombians say everything is chévere. If you want to be really local, say, "Ay parce, su poncho es chévere," or "Hey bro, your poncho is cool." Just kidding, don't say that.

Pelota:

Literal meaning: Ball. Slang meaning: Idiot. Although it's a feminine word, pelota is said to both males and females. Colombians have a bit of a dark, teasing sense of humor, so calling someone a pelota is not necessarily rude. Example: "¿Qué estas pensando, pelota?" or "What are you thinking, idiot?"

¿Qué más?:

Literal meaning: What more or what else? Slang meaning: What's up or how are you? A simple bien is enough to answer this question, but sometimes Colombians use it to nudge you to talk about something more. Just do not say nada.

Guayabo:

Literal meaning: a guava tree. Slang meaning: to be hungover. Being hungover is definitely a phrase you will need to know, especially if you drink too much Aguardiente Antioqueño, the native Colombian alcohol, which can contain 29 to 60 percent alcohol. Example: "Tengo un guayabo que me mata," aka "I have a hangover that's killing me."



MUSIC

THE KILLERS' 'RUN FOR COVER' 😐

» **BLAISE MESA**
METRO REPORTER

The Killers released its new single, “Run for Cover,” Sept. 22. As an alternative music fan, I haven’t spent too much time listening to The Killers—which is considered more of a mainstream rock band—and this song won’t change my mind. The major problem with this song was the lack of lyrics, and what was there had something to do with running. I have no problem with repeating lyrics, but I’ve sent texts with more unrepeated words than this song.



VIDEO

‘THE GOOD PLACE’ SEASON 2 PREMIERE 😊

» **MIRANDA MANIER**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

NBC’s “The Good Place” returned Sept. 20 for the second season premiere, and it did not disappoint. It’s no surprise considering the show received a considerable amount of praise its entire first season, including the finale’s brilliant twist. “The Good Place” did what few shows can by refusing to let that twist become a gimmick going into the second season. Now, it’s exploring its universe in new and creative ways, and I can’t wait to see what the future holds.



VIRAL

KARDASHIAN PREGNANCY RUMORS 😐

» **TESSA BRUBAKER**
CAMPUS REPORTER

When I opened social media Sept. 22, I was bombarded with reports of Kylie Jenner being pregnant. Many entertainment news sites were reporting on it and everyone began to talk about whether it was true. Then, Sept. 27, social media said Khloe Kardashian, Kylie’s older half-sister, is also reportedly pregnant. I can’t keep track of how many Kardashian or Jenner babies exist at this point and why people are talking about it. Let’s wait and see if a third Kimye baby is next.



RANDOM

THE SPELLING ERROR IN MY COLUMN 😞

» **ERIC BRADACH**
MANAGING EDITOR

In case you missed it, The Chronicle published a Sept. 29 column about Harvard University withdrawing its invitation to Chelsea Manning as visiting fellow. The column, written by myself, was all well and good, but it contained a glaring spelling error—in the first paragraph nonetheless. You may be wondering, who is this incompetent and inadequate, nincompoop? Oh wait that was me. Hopefully, I’m less lackadaisical in my column this week.



MUSIC

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD'S 'HARD' 😊

» **JACKIE MURRAY**
METRO EDITOR

The Neighbourhood’s first musical release since 2015 comes as the five-song EP *Hard*, released Sept. 22. The collection features its usual, casual indie vibe, but with a little more pop and rock influences—almost like the Arctic Monkeys. “Sadderdaze” is the best song on this EP, and should be listened to when taking a solo, thought-provoking stroll through the park. However, it can still be played wherever you go. I can guarantee if you roll out this EP at a party, everyone will want to be your best friend.



VIDEO

‘KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE’ 😐

» **JONATHON SADOWSKI**
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

The first “Kingsman” film, released Feb. 13, 2014, was far from perfect, and its sequel is no different. “The Golden Circle,” released Sept. 22, is rife with uneven pacing right from the start, with a minutes-long car chase and fight scene as the opening. After the first half-hour, which is terrible, the film settles into its unique groove before being derailed yet again by several gratuitous Elton John appearances. There are, however, a handful of genuinely shocking twists and great action scenes that pick up the slack.

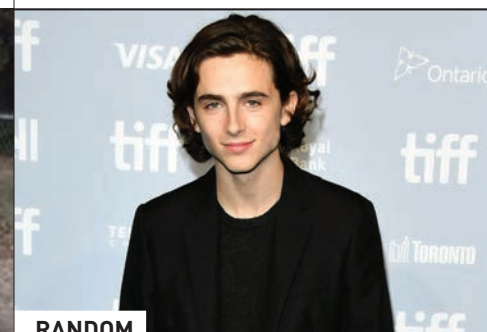


VIRAL

NFL FANS BURNING MERCHANDISE 😞

» **CONNOR CARYNSKI**
CAMPUS EDITOR

NFL fans have decided to protest after an official Sept. 23 statement was released from the organization that conveyed support for players kneeling during the national anthem to protest racial disparity. Numerous fans have posted videos of themselves burning thousands of dollars of tickets and apparel from their favorite teams. Many claim the protests are anti-American, but the players have every right to protest, and burning expensive gear won’t change that. Save your money and support the players.



RANDOM

TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET 😊

» **BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT**
DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR

Timothée Chalamet first stepped into the acting world for his role as Finn Walden in Showtime series “Homeland.” Since then, he’s made appearances in multiple movies like Christopher Nolan’s “Interstellar” and the Christmas-comedy “Love The Coopers.” However, his role as Elio Pearlman in the upcoming film “Call Me by Your Name” is already getting lavish praise from film critics worldwide. Not only is Chalamet entirely too cute, but critics suggest he may snag the 2018 Oscar for best actor. I look forward to it.

Health-care debate far from over after latest GOP bill fails

The latest Republican move to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act sunk like a stone last week. After three GOP senators voiced opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill Sept. 26, voting was cancelled because the legislation didn't have the necessary 51-vote support.

The ACA is safe for now. However, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, and Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Louisiana, two of the bill's authors, have vowed to continue attempts to repeal former President Barack Obama's health-care law. Even though the Senate is moving on to tax reform, as the GOP Senate leaders stated in a Sept. 26 press conference,

Americans cannot afford to disarm in the fight for accessible healthcare.

A majority of the public clearly thinks Republicans in Congress have failed to create a health-care bill in Americans' best interest, based on a poll by ABC News and The Washington Post. Out of 1,002 adults questioned Sept. 18–21, 56 percent preferred the ACA while only 33 percent supported the Graham-Cassidy bill, which was projected to decrease federal spending for Medicaid to zero by 2027, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The faults of the ACA have been scrutinized since its inception. Rising insurance premiums have left individuals searching

for cheaper plans with limited options for coverage. But none of the Republicans' solutions address these problems.

Instead, new problems would arise if either of the GOP-proposed bills had passed—including the loss of Medicaid for many low-income people. The Graham-Cassidy bill was thrown together so hastily that a score from the Congressional Budget Office was not available, although the office did release a statement saying that millions would lose healthcare coverage.

In addition, the government would no longer require insurers to cover a comprehensive list of benefits like prescription medicine, emergency care, drug rehab and a host of other medically necessary treatments.

After Obamacare expanded coverage for so many, the case for single-payer healthcare is getting easier to make, and its leading spokesman, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, introduced legislation Sept.

13 that would make universal coverage a reality. What's new, however, is how many Democratic senators are co-sponsoring the bill—Sens. Corey Booker D-New Jersey, Kamala Harris D-California, Al Franken D-Minnesota, Tammy Baldwin D-Wisconsin and many more.

This is bound to be a campaign issue in 2020. Some Americans may feel helpless as the state of their healthcare is debated by leaders in Washington, D.C., but they have a say in who represents them and the causes they care about.

About one-third of Senate seats will be up for reelection in 2018, and Americans need to ensure the ACA is protected and improved by researching their local candidates and what they stand for. The Senate may be done with the health-care debate for now, but Americans should not back down until comprehensive health care is regarded as a right for everyone.

Athletes have home-field advantage protesting Trump's comments



COMMENTARY

» TYRA BOSNIC
OPINIONS EDITOR

As the national anthem played in football stadiums across the country Sept. 24, NFL players displayed solidarity and brotherhood on the sidelines unlike any team huddle.

At Soldier Field, Chicago Bears teammates locked arms to show unity in the face of divisiveness as the majority of their opponents, the Pittsburgh Steelers, remained off the field during the

anthem. Players on other teams—such as the Green Bay Packers, Oakland Raiders and Cleveland Browns—took the same position as the Bears and locked arms with their teammates during the anthem. Those who didn't stand decided to take a knee, as the entire Dallas Cowboys team and owner did Sept. 25.

On Sept. 22, two days before players protested, President Donald Trump criticized NFL players and coaches during a rally in Alabama, stating that any player who decided to kneel during the national anthem should be fired. The world outside of the end zones was dramatically different on Sept. 24 after the vitriolic comments from the president, including calling these peaceful protesters "sons of bitches."

Trump's comments referred to former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick who made headlines last season for kneeling during the national anthem to protest racism and police brutality. Kaepernick is no longer signed to any NFL team, and many people have speculated this is because of his decision.

The president's assault on professional sports players didn't end after calling for the removal of any football player who decided to exercise his right to peaceful protest. After Stephen Curry, one of the Golden State Warriors' star basketball players, stated he would vote against a team visit to the White House because of his disapproval of the president, Trump responded via tweet uninviting the team because of Curry's stance. Because of the president's attempts to further divide the nation, sports teams found their real home-field advantage. Seemingly all at once, athletes realized the giant platform available to them. The president's childish comments spurred players, coaches and team owners in various major leagues to action.

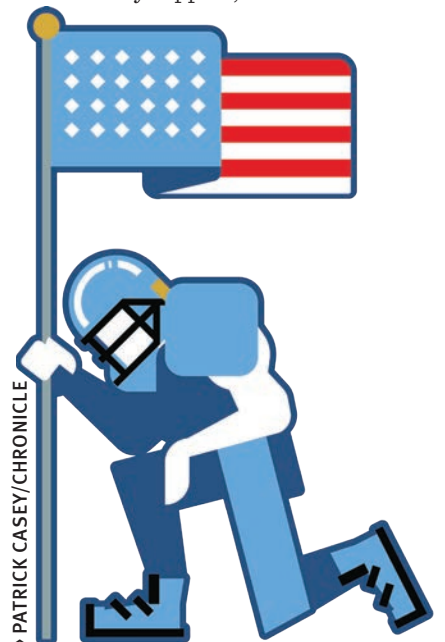
In a show of support to NFL athletes Trump targeted, Oakland Athletics catcher Bruce Maxwell became the first MLB player to take a knee during the national anthem.

NFL team chairmen and coaches held impromptu meetings with their players and asserted they had the right to protest at Sunday games as long as the gesture was a team effort.

Now, as the Trump administration continues to push dangerous and hateful

rhetoric, major league athletes must come together to continue what Kaepernick started. Both during and after the season, players must remind audiences that political issues don't pause after kickoff.

An audience of more than 100 million people tuned into NFL games last season. For pro athletes, whether they take a wordless stance by kneeling on the field or become outspoken advocates for the causes they support, millions are watching.



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Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 2, you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you. —The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board



Advocacy for abortion must extend to developing countries

Harsh laws and the seemingly irreversible stigma surrounding abortions has deterred advocates and women across the world for many years, but there is no better time to be fighting for safe, legal abortions than now.

A study published Sept. 27 by British health journal The Lancet found that a staggering 25.5 million abortions between 2010 and 2014 around the world were practiced in an unsafe manner. The study was conducted by international researchers at the World Health Organization and Guttmacher Institute. It involved more than 150 pieces of data collected from previous surveys, bibliographic databases and ministries of health or national statistical organizations on both unsafe and safe abortions across 61 countries.

When that distressing number is broken down into percentages, researchers found that 31 percent of abortions were categorized as “less safe,” meaning that the abortion was done by a trained provider, but they may have used an outdated method or the abortion may have been performed with a currently advised method but without a professional present. Fourteen percent were deemed “least safe,” which means that the operation was performed by someone who was untrained and used unsafe methods and tools like sharp curettage.

Most often with unwanted pregnancies, it is women and young girls worldwide who end up having an unsafe abortions, according to WHO. Unwanted pregnancies can be the product of rape, incest or abuse. Women may also need one because they will die if they don’t terminate the pregnancy. Whatever reason, getting an abortion should never be unsafe. Women should never be second choice to an unborn fetus.

Common barriers include restrictive laws, poor access to services, high cost and stigma, according to WHO. Unsafe abortions can cause an array of medical complications that can be fatal: infection, damage to the genitals, hemorrhaging, and an incomplete abortion when some



pregnancy tissue is still left in the uterus after the operation.

The study found 11,000 North American women had an unsafe abortion over the four years considered. The number seems too high considering abortion clinics are still semi-accessible. The thought of any number of women within this country desperately needing the operation but unable to access it safely is horrific.

However, this is a small number compared to the 6.2 million women in Africa and the 14 million women in Asia who had an unsafe abortion during this period.

This study is proof that unsafe abortions are still a global health crisis and need to be treated as such—especially by developed countries. According to the study, almost all abortions in developed countries were safe. Women in developing countries were not as fortunate. This could be due to multiple obstacles like the illegality of abortion in some places and lack of access to public health care.

It’s no secret the U.S. is experiencing its own problems with abortion access. Health care is becoming a major debate and President Donald Trump signed an anti-abortion bill—which allows states to withhold federal funding from organizations that provide abortions—four months into his first term.

Despite this, we cannot forget the women across the world who are living in even more oppressive countries. They must be spotlighted in this debate, along with this study. If they do choose to have an abortion, it should be performed in a safe, clean facility and be a fundamental right.

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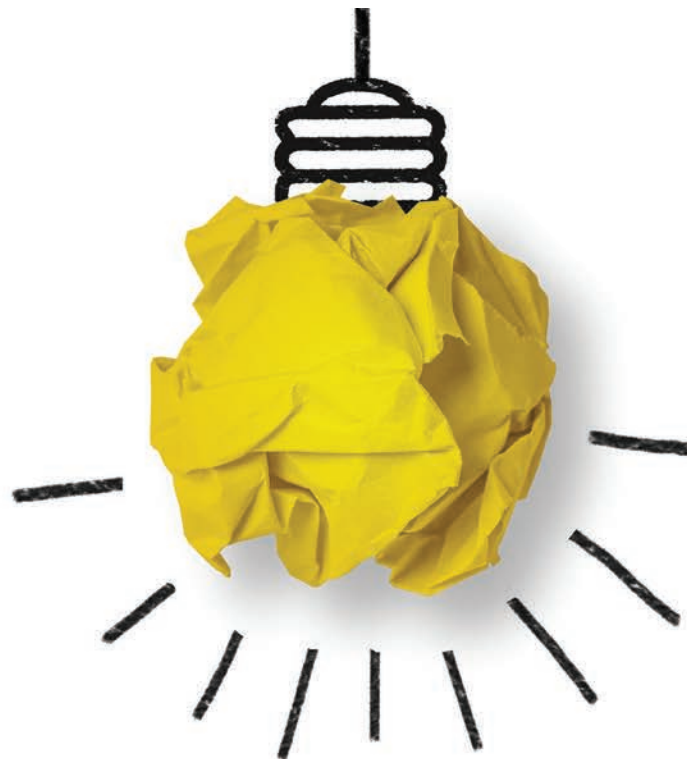
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Chicago's strong Latino community saves their own by bringing aid, resources to Mexico, Puerto Rico

» **JACKIE MURRAY**
METRO EDITOR

CHICAGO AND SOME of its neighborhood organizations have shown support for Mexico and Puerto Rico after devastating natural disasters hit both areas.

A 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit Mexico City Sept. 19, killing at least 216 people. The following day, Puerto Rico was hit by crippling Category 4 Hurricane Maria, which left the U.S. territory flooded and without electricity. Chicago—with its Latino population as its largest minority group—has responded loudly to provide aid.

“This is a great opportunity for us to show solidarity in the fact that these unfortunate incidents happened simultaneously,” said Carlos Hernandez, executive director of the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance. “We should come together on this and show our respective communities that we will continue to work and be concerned about each other.”

After receiving multiple phone calls from concerned community members, PRAA and the National Museum of Mexican Art created the Chicago for Mexico and Puerto Rico Relief Fund. Set up at Wintrust Bank, it

is collecting donations to be divided evenly between Mexico and Puerto Rico, according to Hernandez.

“When an incident of this magnitude shuts down a country, where there’s no water, no electricity [and] communication is very minim[al], there’s this anguish that our people are in desperate need,” Hernandez said. “When you feel that hopeless because you see the media covering Puerto Rico and Mexico, you begin to mobilize. It’s almost a human instinct to save your own, to save your people.”

Other Chicago-based groups have launched similar efforts to provide aid to Mexico, including Chicago Con Mexico—a citizens’ committee of individuals and leaders from Mexican organizations. Its main goal is to raise money for Mexican areas most affected by the earthquake, said Claudia Lucero, member of Durango Unido En Chicago and a Chicago Con Mexico committee member. The committee has also opened an account at the Second Federal bank in Little Village to collect donations, she added.

“There was a tragedy, but those are the moments that bring us all together to work



» MACKENZIE CROSSON/CHRONICLE

The Puerto Rican flag over West Division Street in Humboldt Park, which hosts the city’s largest Puerto Rican population, symbolizes the community’s unity during a devastating time.

for our one goal: to help our brothers and sisters who either lost a relative, a friend, their homes [or] their place of work,” said Lucero, who was born and raised in Mexico. “There [are] materials you can recover, but you cannot recover a life.”

In wake of the hurricane and disaster, the city launched a website identifying reputable charities, causes and ways to make a difference, affirming the city’s support for affected victims and families.

This is not the first time Chicago has lent a hand to Mexico City in response to a natural disaster. In September 1985, an 8.1 magnitude earthquake hit the city, which left 10,000 dead and 30,000 injured. At the time, Maria de los Angeles Torres was working as director of the city’s Latino Affairs’ commission under former Mayor Harold Washington.

At the time of the crisis, Washington said that whatever Mexico City needed, Chicago would try to help, she recalled.

Washington turned over city-owned warehouses to serve as donation centers, while also working closely with the Mexican Consulate, trying to gauge the country’s greatest needs, said de los Angeles Torres, who is now executive director of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research and a Latin American and Latino Studies professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. However, she noted the 1985 crisis may have required a stronger, more extensive response because of the high casualties.



“A lot of the work that has been going on at this stage is from community-based organizations,” she said. “I don’t think the response from City Hall was as strong as it was [in 1985], but the community is in another place where there are a lot more institutions able to take the lead.”

jnmurray@columbiachronicle.com



» ERIN BROWN/CHRONICLE

Because of the damage from the 7.1 magnitude Mexico City earthquake, citizens’ committee Chicago Con Mexico has formed and opened an account at Second Federal bank in Little Village to collect monetary donations.

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» ERIC BRADACH
MANAGING EDITOR

College athletes need an alternative to the NCAA

Corruption, extortion and exploitation are nothing new to the competitive world of sports, but the big money in college-level sports has created an environment and culture that damages students' education.

Ten individuals—including four NCAA basketball coaches and a top Adidas executive—were charged Sept. 26 with bribery and fraud by a federal prosecutor. The coaches are accused of accepting bribes to steer players to preferred financial advisers, business managers and agents. The Adidas executive is accused of arranging payments for high school athletes to secure commitments to Adidas-sponsored colleges and universities, according to a Sept. 26 press release from the Southern District of New York's U.S. Attorney's Office.

Unfortunately, this is not surprising given the massive profit incentives. NCAA's 2017 March Madness basketball tournament hauled in \$10.4 billion in bets, according to the American Gaming Association. Meanwhile, the 2016 64-team tournament pulled in a record \$1 billion from media rights fees, ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and television ads, according to Investopedia. In 2015, NCAA's 231 Division I schools spawned more than \$9 billion in revenue, according to Business Insider.

These profits further encourage colleges and universities to push young athletes to the brink, so they spend more time on the basketball court than on their studies. Some might say it's OK because the athletes will become millionaires after turning professional, but the odds aren't in their favor.

According to the NCAA, only 1.1 percent of male college basketball players will become professionals based on the number of eligible and available draft picks in the NBA.

NCAA Division I teams play an average of 32 games during the regular season and could end up playing more if they qualify for the three-week-long March Madness tournament—not to mention the hours



devoted to practices, summer training and traveling for away games.

Originally, college sports seemed like a saving grace for individuals who came from low-income households. They provided an opportunity for athletically gifted teens, creating a pathway to higher education and gracing a lucky few with full-ride scholarships. But now, college athlete recruiters give impressionable youths false hope only to have them work like dogs to drive their bottom line: profits. This violates their trust and robs them of their education.

If one is a college basketball—or any other college sport—fan who enjoys watching games and the social community surrounding it: great. No one should be against another's—legal—interests and hobbies, but the massive profits in this industry have created an environment of exploitation and greed. Fans need to put the welfare of the next generation above their own pleasures.

There comes a point when reform is no longer an option, and the culture around NCAA basketball, as this recent scandal suggests, is a precise example. The time has come to separate education and athletics at higher educational institutions.

An alternative outlet for professional sports recruiting needs to be explored. Some other route is desperately needed for college students who enjoy playing sports and would like to go pro without taking time away from their studies because, when an individual is in college, education must come first.

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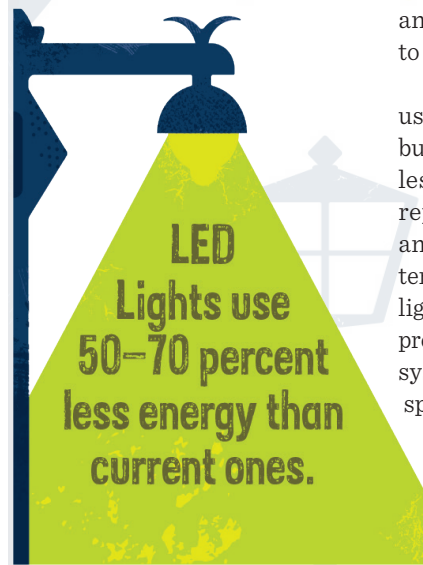
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Chicago rolls out new state-of-the-art lighting system

» **BLAISE MESA**
METRO REPORTER

CHICAGO WILL SHINE brighter and see a different nighttime skyline due to a historic citywide street-light initiative



Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced plans Sept. 19 to replace 270,000 streetlights with more energy efficient LED light-bulbs over the next four years.

The new lights' energy efficiency is expected to save enough money to cover the \$160 million purchase and installation costs, according to a Sept. 19 mayoral press release.

Currently, Chicago streetlights use high-pressure sodium lights, but LED bulbs use 50–70 percent less energy. The city also will replace worn-down light posts and add a new management system to increase the life of the city's lighting infrastructure. The entire project—and the new management system—should be operational by spring 2018.

"The Chicago Smart Lighting Program will deliver modern, reliable, energy-efficient lighting that will improve quality of life in every

neighborhood and fix one of the top reasons people call 311," Emanuel said in the press release.

The project was launched Sept. 19 in the 8th Ward's South Shore neighborhood. The lights will first be installed in neighborhoods with high safety concerns because they can act as crime deterrents in limited light areas, according to the press release.

"A lot of the underserved communities are far behind in terms of the infrastructure and improvements," said Tonya Trice, executive director of the South Shore Chamber Inc., which serves the 5th, 7th and 8th wards. "Anything we can do to improve the lighting will definitely be a benefit and a deterrent of crime."

Burnside—about four miles south of South Shore—ranks third in the city for quality-of-life crimes committed per thousand people in the last 30 days and is

second in violent crimes, behind West Garfield Park, according to a report done by Chicago's crime dataset portal.

Safona Calderon, secretary of Concerned Citizens of Burnside who lives in the neighborhood, said she is happy to have the new lights because Burnside's dimly lit streets create a negative environment for crime to occur.

"Whether it's gangs, drugs, or prostitution. People tend to go to dark areas to commit their crimes," Calderon said.

However, others remain skeptical. Michael Tidmore, program coordinator for Youth Services and Public Safety at Teamwork Englewood, said the \$160 million should be spent helping other underserved areas of the city in a different way.

That money should be spent on something other than technological advances, he said, adding, "I think [investing in human capital is] the best solution to our violence [problem]."

Earlier this year Chicago rolled out

sweeping security changes with increased surveillance around the city in hopes of reducing crime, according to a Jan. 27 press release.

The city of Chicago needs this project to help communities reduce crime, Calderon said, adding, "Not one [preventative measure] is going to work by itself."

» PATRICK CASEY/CHRONICLE



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Initiative works to eliminate HIV in most-affected group

» **SAVANNAH EADENS**
METRO REPORTER

WHEN ERIK GLENN, executive director of Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, first came to Chicago when he was 22, he knew almost nothing about HIV. He was a gay, sexually active man who assumed he had already contracted the disease because of who he is.

Glenn's organization is now one of many groups collaborating with the Getting to Zero initiative,

a statewide effort to wipe out new HIV diagnoses in 10 years.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced his support for the program in a Sept. 19 press release, which will increase prevention medication use such as PrEP—a daily pill that reduces HIV infection risk by more than 90 percent—among those most vulnerable to HIV. The initiative also aims to ensure that 70 percent of people living with HIV receive the necessary medication to reduce their viral load, which significantly reduces the risk of transmission.

For two years in a row, Chicago has had fewer than 1,000 new HIV diagnoses per year for the first time in 20 years, said John Peller, CEO and president of the AIDS Foundation Chicago. However, nationwide, black gay men are disproportionately at risk for HIV and account for 46 percent of new infections among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.

“While it's tremendous new cases have dropped significantly, the cases haven't dropped equally among all populations,” he added.

Peller said research shows black gay men have condomless sex at the same rates as their white counterparts, and their rates of sexually transmitted infections or drug use are also not much different. Factors like racial discrimination and segregation, which lead to a lack of access to health care, contribute to the gap, he added.

Glenn said individuals tend to have sexual contact within their own racial groups, so HIV is concentrated in the community.

“The language that public health uses very often is [that] black gay men are at risk, in danger [or] more likely to get HIV,” Glenn said. “How that gets internalized is as if something [is] wrong with us.”

While medical technology has made it impossible for patients in HIV treatment for at least six months to transmit the disease to anyone else, Peller said the stigma surrounding HIV still exists.

“On gay dating apps, there are

still people who ask the question ‘Are you clean?’” Peller said, “implying that people living with HIV are unclean or dirty in some way, which is stigmatizing.”

Along with providing education to end the HIV stigma, the GTZ initiative also aims to bring awareness to preventive medication.

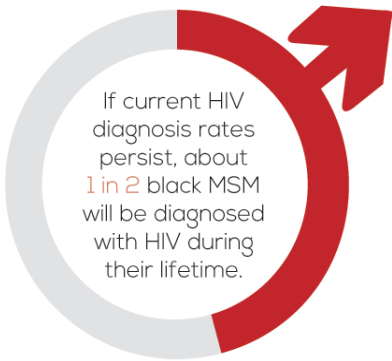
Peller said a 20 percent increase in the utilization of PrEP and a 20 percent increase in the rate of viral suppression will bring Chicago to fewer than 100 new cases of HIV a year by 2027.

While PrEP is covered by most health insurers, Peller said the preventive medication can cost \$1,500 per month for those who do not have insurance.

“There is a lot of work that needs to be done to educate people about PrEP and where and how to access it,” Peller said, “particularly among the populations that are most vulnerable to HIV, which [are] people who are low-income and already very marginalized.”

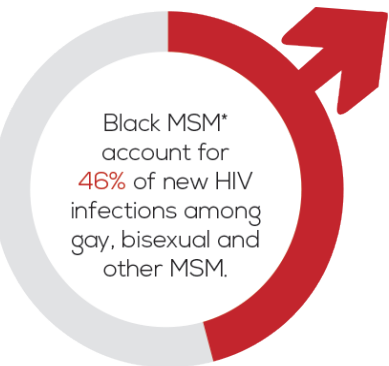
Simone Koehlinger, senior vice president of programming for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago,

» **SAMANTHA CONRAD/CHRONICLE**



said she has found it challenging to tell patients they are HIV positive when she gave screenings and counseling at a health clinic. She said she would never forget one patient—a black man in his 20s—who was not surprised to learn he had HIV because he felt it was an inevitable diagnosis.

“Stories like that really call attention to the injustice we see,” Koehlinger said. “It doesn't have to be that way. No 20-year-old, no matter their race or living circumstances, should be thinking that [it] is just a matter of time [until] they have [HIV].”



*MSM refers to men who have sex with men

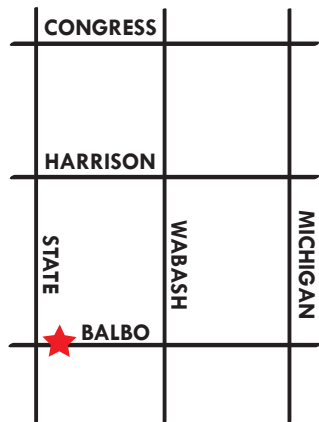
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Chicago to host historic climate summit

» **BLAISE MESA**
METRO REPORTER

MAYORS FROM AROUND the world will assemble in Chicago to develop strategies for combating climate change at the inaugural Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy's North American Climate Summit.

At the Dec. 4–5 summit, mayors will announce their plans to reduce their cities' carbon footprints and commit to reducing emissions despite a lack of support from federal governments. All participating cities have pledged to meet or exceed standards set by the Paris Climate Agreement.

"I'm excited that the climate summit is bringing together local leaders from across the continents to Chicago [and] demonstrating local leadership on climate change mitigation and adaptation," said

Jamie Ponce, director of innovation at the Environmental Law and Policy Center in Chicago.

After President Donald Trump's administration pulled the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord June 1, the burden of fighting climate change and responsibility for the country's carbon footprint fell on cities and states. The 196-nation agreement, originally signed April 22, 2016, was a guideline for countries to follow to combat the effects of climate change.

"[It's thrilling] to see the leadership from mayors across the country really take action on climate in the face of a federal administration," said Kady McFadden, deputy director of the Illinois Sierra Club—an advocacy group that protects the environment through legislation and activism.

In an ideal world, change would come from both the federal and



Mayor Rahm Emanuel will bring city leaders from across the globe together for the first annual climate summit to be held in December.

local governments working in unison, said Max Berkelhammer, an earth and environmental sciences assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Because of the federal government's outlook on climate change, the next steps need to be at a local level, and the climate summit is a big step for cities to fight back

against the federal administration, he added.

The international summit has the backing of C40—a group of 7,400 cities worldwide fighting to reduce climate change. A report by C40 shows that 91 percent of C40 cities in the U.S. plan to expand their existing climate actions. These cities have increased

environmental efforts across the transportation, building, waste and water sectors.

Switching to cleaner, renewable energy sources, such as solar power, having fuel efficient vehicles for public transportation and relying on cleaner energy rather than coal or natural gas are just a few of the various ways society can reduce its carbon footprint, Berkelhammer said.

Chicago received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2017 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award and has pledged to make all buildings in the city operate on 100 percent renewable energy by 2025, as reported April 24 by The Chronicle. Chicago office buildings have also grabbed the top spot in energy efficiency in the 2017 National Green Building Adoption Index, as reported July 18 by the Chronicle.

"We can take action by ourselves, and [cities] can make a dent in this issue," McFadden said, "We can do this without the president."

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» SAVANNAH EADENS
METRO REPORTER

CHICAGO CITY CLERK Anna Valencia describes herself, first and foremost, as the daughter of Joe and Debbie Valencia. The 32-year-old, second-generation Mexican-American grew up in Granite City, Illinois—a town with 30,000 people and three steel mills.

Prior to assuming office in January 2017, Valencia earned her bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and served as the second woman and first Latina to run Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs.

Valencia has worked as a political professional in various campaign capacities for Sen. Dick Durbin, D-IL., state Senate President John Cullerton, as well as Congressmen Mike Quigley and Gary Peters.

The Chronicle spoke with Valencia about growing up in a working class family and women in politics.

THE CHRONICLE: What was your childhood like?

ANNA VALENCIA: From a young age, I saw my parents being community leaders and activists because they care about their community. My mom actually lost her job when Illinois couldn't pass a budget. But she didn't get bitter, she just picked herself back up. She's a breast cancer survivor, so she's been through [a lot] of things in her life that have kind of helped her have resilience.

My dad is on dialysis four times a day at 60, but still works every day 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the heat, never complains and still works side jobs for extra money. I take that spirit, and I tell people this because the same way I grew up is seen in Chicago. A lot of working families have those same

struggles, whether it's health care struggles, job security or not being paid a living wage.

Sometimes people look at me and think, "She's Latina, she's a woman" or "she must have it all figured out, she's put together," but I'm really not. What's dynamic about where we are right now in our political structure is we don't share these stories. There is not enough conversation happening around tables, and we make assumptions about what people think or who they are based on what we're looking at, but it's really about getting to each other's stories and understanding where we can find common ground.

What kind of adversity have you overcome throughout your career?

Finding confidence as a leader. As women, we struggle with this a little bit more than men. I did not struggle with confidence my whole life, but as I moved up the

ladder, I became one of the very few women in the room, or the only woman of color in the room. You kind of shrink a little bit. You have confidence outside the room, but then inside the room, there's a self-doubt and also Imposter Syndrome. I'll think, "Do I really deserve to be here? Do I really know what I'm talking about?" But I have an awesome support system. I have wonderful friends and other women leaders who have been helpful with how to build that confidence.

Individuals at your January City Council swearing in ceremony made comments about your good looks. Did that bother you?

It didn't bother me as much as it bothered my friends and my husband. I don't let it bother me. I just say, "Thank you for the compliment," and I move on because I do not want this conversation about my looks...

seadens@columbiachronicle.com

» MONICA WESTLAKE/CHRONICLE



Read the rest of Valencia's Q&A at ColumbiaChronicle.com.

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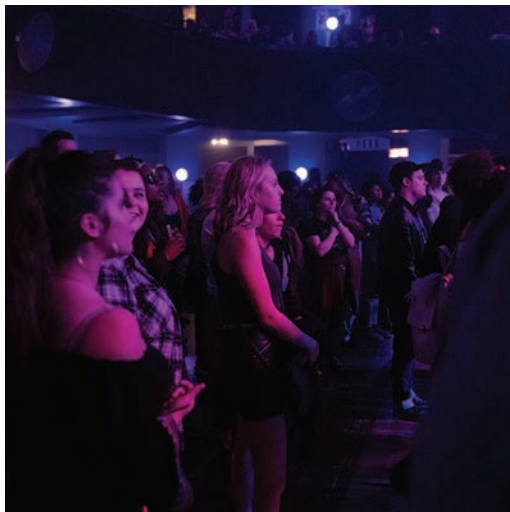
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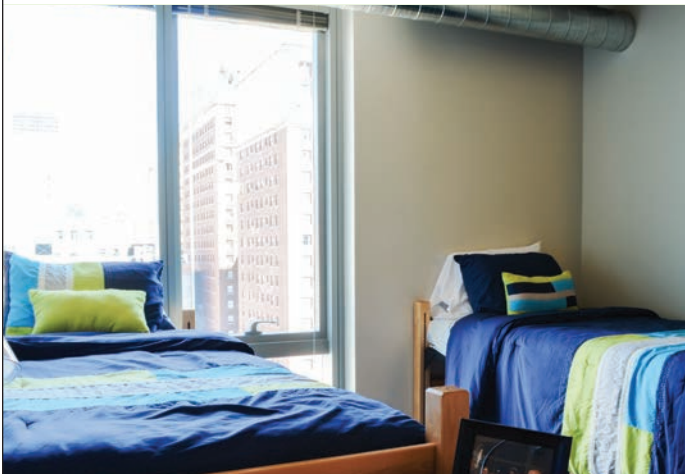
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